

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-01 AID-05 H-02 IO-13 SSC-01 CPR-01

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DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:AATHIBAUT,JR.:JES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 207896

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM NEA/INS OBER, ACTING

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MV

SUBJECT: PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS IN MALDIVES

REF: COLOMBO 3121

1. FOLLOWING CHECKLIST TOUCHES ON SOME POINTS, LARGE AND SMALL, THAT YOU MAY WISH TO REVIEW IN CONNECTION WITH YOUR VISIT TO THE MALDIVES, AUGUST 22-24.

2. PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION FOR THE MALDIVES WAS POUCHED TO YOU ON JUNE 30, IN WHICH WAS ALSO ENCLOSED TWO COPIES EACH OF LETTERS OF RECALL AND OF CREDENCE TO BE HANDED TO PRESIDENT NASIR. WE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS NO RECORD THAT OATH FOR MALDIVES WAS ADMINISTERED TO YOU FOLLOWING YOUR ARRIVAL IN COLOMBO. OATH IS REQUIRED BEFORE YOU MAY PRESENT CREDENTIALS. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE ADVISED BOTH OF

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ADMINISTRATION OF OATH AND OF PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

FOLLOWING YOUR RETURN TO COLOMBO.

3. ON MORE SUBSTANTIVE SIDE, YOU WILL RECALL DEPARTMENT PLEDGE TO SENATOR PELL AT TIME OF YOUR NOMINATION HEARINGS THAT QUESTION OF RECIPROCAL ACCREDITATION WOULD BE RAISED WITH MALDIVIANS. YOU MAY WANT TO UNDERLINE SENATE INTEREST

IN THIS ISSUE WHILE POINTING TO GREATER OPPORTUNITY WHICH MALDIVIAN DECISION TO OPEN UN MISSION WILL OFFER OF MAINTAINING AN OFFICE IN WASHINGTON WHICH WOULD PERMIT ACCREDITATION.

4. ELSEWHERE, INTEREST IN GAN ISSUE REMAINS STRONG HERE PARTICULARLY CONCERNING POSSIBLE THIRD PARTY USE OF AIR FACILITY AND ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON GOM ATTITUDES ON THIS SUBJECT WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. WE ARE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN IMPLICATIONS FOR THE MALDIVES OF RECENT NAC DECISION TO GRANT IT FULL MEMBERSHIP IN NON-ALIGNED GROUP.

5. ELSEWHERE, REVIEW IS CONTINUING OF FUTURE STATUS OF MALDIVIAN AND OTHER STUDENTS CURRENTLY ENROLLED AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT UNDER U.S. AUSPICES. WE ARE HOPING TO WORK OUT FORMULA WHICH WOULD PERMIT STUDENTS STILL THERE TO REMAIN AND COMPLETE THEIR DEGREES IF THAT IS THEIR WISH. (FYI - EVEN THIS IS NOT ASSURED, WHILE AT SAME TIME IT APPEARS IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO ENROLL FUTURE STUDENTS AT AUB AS REGIONAL PROGRAM FUNDING SUCH STUDY WILL BE TERMINATED OWING TO UNCERTAINTIES SURROUNDING AUB ITSELF) END FYI).

6. WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING AT THIS END CONCERNING TRI-9 INTEREST IN THE MALDIVES BUT YOU MAY WANT TO NOTE OUR WILLINGNESS TO BE HELPFUL WHERE POSSIBLE THROUGH SUCH MEANS AS OPIC, DOC AND OTHER AGENCIES IN ENCOURAGING TRADE WITH THE U.S. AND U.S. PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN THE MALDIVES.

7. FINALLY, LOOKING TO THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, WE WELCOME THE DECISION BY THE MALDIVIES TO PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE UNITED  
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NATIONS, AND LOOK FORWARD TO MAINTAINING THE FRIENDLY CONTACTS WITH MALDIVIAN DELEGATIONS WHICH WE HAVE ENJOYED IN THE PAST. HABIB

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